Research on the Path of Accelerating the Cultivation of Foreign-related Legal Talents in the New Era

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Abstract: Foreign-related rule of law talents are responsible for incorporating national governance capability and governance system into foreign relations, striving to construct excellent laws and regulations that adapt to the foreign environment and shape a sound foreign governance model. However, in the current world undergoing unprecedented changes, there is a shortage of high-quality foreign-related rule of law talents in China. The mechanism for cultivating foreign-related talents is not sound, and there is a gap between theory and practice. It is necessary to improve the mechanism for cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents, optimize talent development plans under the new model of humanities and social sciences, and coordinate the integration of theory and practice. This will provide solid support for the development of national governance capabilities and the rule of law in foreign affairs in the new era.

1. Introduction

In the context of the new era, the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law has become an urgent issue to be addressed in legal education. The traditional educational model is no longer able to satisfy the demands for the cultivation of versatile and high-quality legal talents in the field of international law. This article aims to propose a set of cultivation strategies in accordance with legal ideology with Chinese characteristics, in order to adapt to the international rule of law environment in the new situation.

2. Justification of Rule of Law Training for Foreigners

The cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law is a crucial component in today's society, and its legitimacy can be demonstrated from multiple perspectives. Firstly, the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law aligns with the strategic demands of a country's rule of law development. With the acceleration of globalization and the increasing frequency of international interactions, legal convergence among nations becomes increasingly prominent. Cultivating talents with international legal literacy contributes to active participation in international affairs and the rational protection of national interests. Secondly, the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law brings significant economic and social benefits. In the context of global economic integration, a stable, transparent, and fair legal environment is one of the crucial factors in attracting foreign investment and promoting international trade. Cultivating outstanding
legal talents in international law not only ensures smooth international business exchanges but also enhances a country's international image and competitiveness. Additionally, the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law helps safeguard global peace and stability. In the era of globalization, legal disputes and disputes between countries are increasing and have wide-ranging implications [1]. Talents with solid knowledge and skills in international law can play important roles in mediation and promotion in international affairs, contributing to the maintenance of international peace and stability. Therefore, the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law possesses evident legitimacy. It not only conforms to national strategic needs and economic and social development demands but also actively promotes international peace and stability. Therefore, investing in the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law is a highly legitimate strategic initiative.

3. Dilemma and Reflection on the Cultivation of Foreign Rule of Law Talents

With the advent of the new century, China is facing an increasingly complex and volatile international situation, and the problems in the ways of cultivating legal talents have become more apparent. Participating in global governance not only requires them to be familiar with the Party and the country's policies, understand China's national conditions, but also requires them to have a broad international perspective, fluency in foreign languages, and familiarity with international rules and negotiation skills. However, currently, there is a severe shortage of legal talents in the field of international law in China. Universities do not give enough importance to this issue, and there is also a certain degree of deficiency in practical teaching.

3.1 Serious Shortage of Foreign Rule of Law Professionals

(1) The quantity and quality of foreign rule of law training is grossly disproportionate to the country's fast-growing needs and to the goal of building the rule of law

As China's role on the international stage becomes increasingly prominent, the demand for legal talents in the field of international law has grown more urgent. However, the current cultivation of legal talents in international law faces serious deficiencies in both quantity and quality. According to statistics, apart from higher education institutions in Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, there are more than 630 universities in China granting bachelor's degrees in law, 247 granting master's degrees in law, and 60 granting doctoral degrees in law. Despite having numerous legal professionals, the proportion of professionals with a high level of legal expertise is relatively small. As of June 2022, there were 605,000 lawyers in China, yet as of January 2021, there were only slightly over 12,000 lawyers specializing in international law, accounting for only 2.3% of the total number of lawyers in the country. This significant disparity does not align with the considerable trade activities and demand for foreign-related legal services in China. Additionally, the existing training scale in universities is unable to match the growing level of international affairs demand in the country. Compared to the rapid growth in demand, the current system for cultivating legal talents in international law is inadequate. In many international affairs, China requires highly qualified and well-rounded professionals, but the reality is that the quantity and quality of talents being cultivated fall far short of meeting the rapid growth in demand for international cooperation and foreign negotiations [2]. Furthermore, the shortage in the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law also hinders the achievement of China's goal of rule of law development. Rule of law construction is an integral part of the national governance system, yet the lack of legal professionals with international law expertise results in the inability to timely and accurately address issues related to international affairs. This creates a stark contrast with the overall goal of China's rule of law development.
(2) With regard to the training of foreign rule of law personnel, our country has made a late start and its capacity-building is uneven.

China started relatively late in the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law, which has led to a severe shortage of professionals in this area. Compared to other developed countries, China's system for cultivating legal talents in international law is relatively weak, with uneven allocation of educational resources, resulting in imbalances in capabilities and qualities. For example, in China, only 8.7% and 11.4% of law master's and doctoral students specialize in international law, respectively. Moreover, this group is primarily concentrated in first-tier cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen. Among all officials at the level of Deputy Secretary-General or higher in the United Nations, there are only 12 officials from China, out of a total of 355 officials. This significant disparity highlights the mismatch between our goal of providing high-quality legal professionals to the world and the current situation. As an example, in 2018, Chinese nationals accounted for only 1.46% of the United Nations staff, indicating a delayed start. This issue is rooted in the delayed recognition and attention China has given to the field of international law compared to the development of domestic legal systems. It is only in recent years that the cultivation of international law has gradually gained extensive attention. As a result, China faces a significant gap that needs to be bridged and caught up in the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law [3,4]. Due to the delayed start, there is also an imbalance in the capacity building of China's training system for legal professionals in international law. On the one hand, universities and training institutions have relatively weak teaching resources and faculty development in the field of international law, making it challenging to provide high-quality education in line with international standards. On the other hand, the demand from the market for outstanding legal professionals in international law continues to rise, but it is difficult to meet. This leads to a clear mismatch between the training and demand for legal talents in international law, hindering China's active and stable engagement in international affairs [5].

3.2 Insufficient Attention Paid by the Higher Education System to the Training of Foreign-related Rule of Law Personnel

(1) Lack of scientific discipline

China's higher education system has not given sufficient attention to the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law, and one prominent issue is the insufficient and unscientific discipline settings. Compared to the field of domestic legal systems, the discipline of international law is relatively scarce in Chinese higher education institutions. This has resulted in a shortage of legal professionals in handling foreign legal affairs and international exchanges. The inadequacy of discipline settings is first reflected in the scarcity of international law courses in higher education institutions. Although some universities in China offer programs in foreign-related law, the quantity and scope of these discipline settings still fall short of meeting the growing demand in China's international affairs. In contrast, some advanced countries have already established comprehensive discipline settings and have stronger capabilities in cultivating legal talents in international law. Additionally, the inadequacy of discipline settings is also evident in the allocation of teaching resources. Some universities have relatively weak faculty and teaching facilities in the field of international law, making it difficult to provide high-quality education that meets international standards. This restricts students' learning and research in the field of international law and hinders their ability to achieve international integration [6].

(2) The objectives of the training have not been clarified

Training objectives are a crucial guiding factor in the work of talent cultivation in universities, holding significant value in providing direction and fundamental goals for talent cultivation.
However, currently, the training objectives for the field of international law often lack specific details and quantification. Education institutions lack a systematic and scientific set of training standards and guidelines for cultivating legal talents in international law. This lack of clear objective guidance in the teaching process often leads to a certain degree of confusion for both students and teachers regarding the direction of cultivation. The vagueness of training objectives is also reflected in the curriculum design and teaching content. In some universities, the syllabus for the field of international law is relatively broad, lacking clear emphasis and depth, making it difficult to ensure that students possess solid knowledge and skills in foreign legal practice and international negotiations, among others [7]. For example, in 2018, the Ministry of Education and the Central Commission for Political and Legal Affairs jointly proposed the "Dual Excellence Implementation Plan 2.0 for Cultivating Outstanding Legal Talents with Moral and Legal Knowledge." This plan clearly stated that, within the context of legal talent cultivation with Chinese characteristics, high-level legal talents in international law should possess an international vision, thorough understanding of international rules, the ability to participate in international legal affairs, uphold national interests, and dare to transform global governance rules. This is an important reform task as well as high standards and expectations for legal talents in international law, providing clear guidance for their cultivation. However, there is still no consensus in national policies and the academic community on how to determine the training levels and models for legal talents in international law, as well as the qualifications for universities to participate in the cultivation of legal talents in international law. This lack of consensus is an important reason for the unclear and less-targeted training objectives for legal talents in international law in university practices [8].

(3) Insufficient "foreignness" of the quality assurance system

There are notable shortcomings in the cultivation of legal talents in the field of international law within China's higher education system, and one prominent issue is the insufficient "foreignness" in the quality assurance system. Although China has made significant achievements in the field of legal education, the quality assurance system fails to fully consider international perspectives and standards in the education and cultivation of legal talents in international law, leading to a certain degree of lagging and inadequacy in their development. Firstly, the quality assurance system lacks specialization in the field of international law. Currently, the cultivation of legal talents in international law within China's higher education system is often constrained by traditional teaching models and evaluation systems in the field of domestic legal systems, making it difficult to highlight the specialization and practical needs of international law [9]. As a result, the practical application capabilities of legal talents in international law, particularly in international negotiations and international business, are relatively weak. Secondly, there is a lack of foreign experience among the faculty in the quality assurance system. International law education requires a rich international perspective and practical experience, yet some universities have a scarcity of faculty with professional experience and practical backgrounds in the field of international law. This hinders the effective assurance of teaching quality in international law courses. Furthermore, according to the requirements of the "National Standards for Legal Education 2021," ensuring quality should consist of "ensuring objectives," "ensuring standards," and "ensuring quality." Schools should establish teaching quality supervision committees under the Teaching Evaluation Center, separate teaching, management, and evaluation principles, and cooperate with the Academic Affairs Office to carry out teaching management and supervision, forming an integrated quality control mechanism of "management, inspection, evaluation, and supervision." However, in practice, there is a lack of differentiation for subjects involving the cultivation of legal talents with such distinct characteristics. Some schools hire retired professors to provide guidance, making it challenging to adequately address the foreign aspect of the subjects, which ultimately affects the
assurance of educational quality and the ability to incorporate the "foreignness" aspect into every aspect of the training of legal talents in international law [10].

3.3 Lack of Foreign Practice Teaching

General Secretary pointed out, "Law is a very practical discipline." In legal education, it is necessary to appropriately balance the relationship between "knowledge-based" and "practice-oriented" approaches. The scope of work in international law is extensive, thus, in the process of legal education, it is essential to ensure cooperation with the government, judicial institutions, departments involved in international affairs, law firms, international organizations, etc., to provide students with high-quality internship opportunities, thereby enhancing their fundamental qualities. Moreover, various departments should introduce the latest experiences and vivid cases from the practice of building a socialist rule of law country, as well as participating in international legal governance, into classroom teaching. However, the current practice-oriented teaching model in China does not fully meet the demands of cultivating legal talents in international law. The reasons for this lie in two aspects. Firstly, the top-level design of higher education in China has not yet established a coordinated mechanism between departments engaged in international practice and universities to jointly train legal talents in international law. Consequently, practical bases such as international organizations and foreign institutions are not common in China [11]. Under the current practice-oriented teaching model, it is difficult to recruit students as interns due to the lack of institutional support. Secondly, many universities still adopt a single training model in their teaching design, focusing primarily on academic training, theoretical explanations, and interpretations of legal provisions, while lacking a comprehensive understanding of the "multi-disciplinary" and "highly specialized and applied" characteristics of legal talents in international law. In addition, practice-oriented teaching places higher demands on the faculty. Teachers not only need a solid foundation in legal studies but also the ability to conduct research on international legal practices and closely follow cutting-edge issues in international affairs. Furthermore, teachers need to have multidisciplinary backgrounds and proficiency in foreign languages. Some scholars have pointed out that in China, especially in the field of international legal theory, there is a relatively limited number of teachers with genuine expertise in foreign law and competence. Moreover, these teachers primarily focus on academic training, making it challenging to ensure the cultivation of practical abilities in legal talents in international law.

4. Targeting of foreign rule of law training

The goal of cultivating international legal talents in the field of foreign legal governance is to develop professionals with international legal literacy and cross-cultural communication skills to meet the demands of legal practice in a globalized context. This training goal emphasizes both a solid foundation in legal theory and practicality in operational skills, aiming to equip students with extensive knowledge and the ability to flexibly apply it in the field of international law. Firstly, cultivating talents in foreign legal governance is dedicated to establishing a solid foundation in legal theory. Through systematic legal courses, students will gain a deep understanding of the theoretical frameworks of international law, domestic law, and other legal systems, while also fostering strong legal analysis and problem-solving abilities. This provides them with a solid theoretical support in foreign legal practice [12]. Secondly, cultivating talents in foreign legal governance emphasizes the development of cross-cultural communication and international cooperation skills. In a globalized context, professionals in foreign legal governance need exceptional cross-cultural communication abilities to effectively navigate the cultural differences inherent in legal practice across different cultural backgrounds. Thus, cultivating students with an international perspective, an open mindset,
and proficiency in English or other international communication languages becomes an important part of the training goal. Additionally, cultivating talents in foreign legal governance also focuses on developing practical skills. Through activities such as mock trials, field visits, and internships, students will have the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge to practical cases, enhancing their ability to solve real-life legal issues. In summary, the goal of cultivating talents in foreign legal governance is to develop professionals with international legal literacy, cross-cultural communication skills, and practical operational abilities on the foundation of legal theory, in order to meet the needs of legal practice in the era of globalization. This positioning will lay a solid foundation for students' future development in the field of international law.

5. Path Options for Foreign Rule of Law Training

Foreign-related rule of law personnel in the new era need to participate in global governance on an international scale, taking on the mission of the rule of law in foreign relations in terms of the country's governance capacity and system of governance, as well as the mission of constructing foreign-related good laws and shaping foreign-related good governance.

5.1 Taking chinese thought on the rule of law as a guide, building a layout for cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents

In the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance, the guidance of chinese thought of rule of law ideology and the establishment of a scientifically reasonable talent training system have profound significance. Chinese thought of rule of law ideology emphasizes the fundamental position of the rule of law in national governance, providing theoretical guidance and a theoretical foundation for cultivating talents with capabilities in foreign legal governance. Firstly, guided by chinese thought of rule of law ideology, rule of law education is integrated into various aspects of cultivating talents in foreign legal governance. This includes fully embodying the core principles of chinese thought of rule of law ideology in the design of teaching content, guiding students to deeply understand the important role of the rule of law in national governance and social stability. At the same time, the curriculum incorporates cutting-edge knowledge and practical experiences in the field of foreign legal governance, enabling students to master practical application skills. Secondly, guided by chinese thought of rule of law ideology, interdisciplinary integration is promoted in the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance. chinese thought of rule of law ideology emphasizes the all-encompassing nature of the rule of law, requiring that rule of law work be closely integrated with domestic and international trends and fully leverage the guiding role of the rule of law. Therefore, cultivating talents in foreign legal governance requires not only knowledge in law, but also support from disciplines such as political science, international relations, and economics, enabling students to possess a multidisciplinary knowledge background. Lastly, guided by chinese thought of rule of law ideology, a talent training system that aligns with international standards is established. chinese thought of rule of law ideology emphasizes the need for rule of law work to adapt to the requirements of our country's modernization and governance system modernization, which includes the field of foreign legal governance. Through ideological guidance, we can construct a talent training system in foreign legal governance that is internationally competitive, providing solid talent support for our country's active participation in international affairs. Guided by chinese thought of rule of law ideology, the establishment of a talent training system in foreign legal governance will offer strong support to the development of our country's foreign legal governance, making positive contributions to safeguarding national interests and promoting the progress of international rule of law [13].
5.2 Strengthening the top-level design of the training program for foreign rule of law talents in the context of the construction of a new liberal arts curriculum

The construction of new humanities is an important educational undertaking and a major strategic task proposed by China in the new era. The formulation of the training program for foreign-related legal professionals requires comprehensive consideration in terms of curriculum system, training objectives and quality assurance.

(1) Improving discipline development is essential in the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance. A scientifically reasonable plan for discipline development directly affects the quality and effectiveness of talent cultivation. Firstly, efforts should be made to strengthen the establishment and development of disciplines related to foreign legal governance. Building upon existing law-related majors, specific majors or branches focusing on foreign legal governance should be established to form a comprehensive and scientifically reasonable disciplinary system. This will better cultivate talents in foreign legal governance with international perspectives and practical legal skills, meeting the increasing demand for China's active participation in international affairs. Secondly, discipline development should fully reflect the characteristics of international legal practices. The cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance should not be limited to theoretical research but also emphasize practical applications. Therefore, the curriculum should include practical courses such as international law, international commercial law, and foreign dispute resolution, aiming to cultivate students' practical skills for working in the field of foreign legal affairs. Additionally, interdisciplinary integration should be considered in discipline development. The field of foreign legal governance often requires the comprehensive application of knowledge from multiple disciplines, such as law, political science, and economics. Therefore, interdisciplinary collaboration should be encouraged in discipline development to nurture talents in foreign legal governance with diverse knowledge backgrounds. In the context of the development of new humanities and social sciences in China, enhancing the top-level design of talent cultivation programs in foreign legal governance will provide strong talent support for China's active participation in international affairs and help advance the development of foreign legal governance to a new level.

(2) Clarifying the training objectives is crucial in cultivating talents in foreign legal governance. The training objectives should closely align with international legal practices and provide strong talent support for China's active participation in international affairs. Firstly, the training objectives should emphasize international perspectives and cross-cultural communication skills. Talents in foreign legal governance need to possess the ability to handle legal affairs in an international environment. Therefore, the training objectives should explicitly require students to have a broad international perspective, understand legal systems and cultural differences in different countries, and possess fluent foreign language communication skills. Secondly, the training objectives should focus on cultivating practical skills. The field of foreign legal governance often requires solving practical legal problems. Therefore, the training objectives should clearly require students to have strong practical abilities, including skills in legal translation, handling foreign-related cases, and international business negotiations. Additionally, the training objectives should emphasize the rule of law spirit and professional ethics. As representatives in the field of law, talents in foreign legal governance should have a high level of legal awareness and professional integrity. They should strictly abide by legal norms, protect the legitimate rights and interests of parties involved, and uphold the justice and fairness of the law. In the context of the development of new humanities and social sciences in China, clarifying the top-level design objectives for the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance will provide a solid talent foundation for China's rule of law construction in international affairs. It also guarantees the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance with
international competitiveness, providing essential support for China's rise in the field of international rule of law [14].

(3) Building a targeted quality assurance system requires considerations from both internal and external perspectives. Internally, universities should implement self-supervision systems such as peer observation and teaching quality assessment, while focusing on the characteristics of talents in foreign legal governance and constructing a scientific evaluation index system. Externally, emphasis should be placed on the "foreign" aspect by establishing a third-party quality assurance mechanism in line with international standards. Consideration should be given to involving social intermediaries for evaluation, certification, and auditing, in order to change the current reliance on government oversight. Additionally, utilizing online platforms for questionnaire surveys and commissioning relevant social and academic institutions can incorporate the opinions of employers, students' parents, and other stakeholders into the quality assessment system for talent cultivation in foreign legal governance. Finally, it may be worth considering cooperation with domestic and international education accreditation institutions to develop an external evaluation system for talent cultivation in foreign legal governance that meets China's needs and aligns with international standards.

5.3 Compensating for the absence of foreign practice teaching in the cultivation of foreign rule of law talents

The lack of foreign practice teaching in the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance is a pressing issue in the current legal education system. General Secretary has explicitly stated, "Law is a very practical discipline." However, there are still a series of problems that need to be resolved in terms of practical teaching. Firstly, we need to establish a network of foreign practice bases and establish stable cooperation relationships with government agencies, judicial organs, foreign affairs departments, law firms, international organizations, and others. This will enable us to jointly construct a practice base network and provide students with a diverse range of internship opportunities, allowing them to personally experience and participate in actual legal work. Secondly, we should promote cooperation between universities and practical departments. By establishing long-term cooperation mechanisms, universities and practical departments can jointly participate in foreign legal governance practice projects, providing students with opportunities for practical operation and application. This will enable them to transform their acquired knowledge into practical abilities through practice. Additionally, the development of faculty is crucial. Teachers not only need a solid foundation in legal studies but also require rich practical experience in foreign legal affairs. They should be able to track and research cutting-edge issues in international affairs and maintain a high level of attention to foreign legal governance. Furthermore, teachers should have multidisciplinary backgrounds and be proficient in foreign languages in order to better meet the needs of talent cultivation in foreign legal governance. In terms of teaching content and methods, interactive teaching methods such as case analysis, mock court sessions, and field investigations should be introduced to enhance students’ practical skills and problem-solving abilities. Additionally, the latest experiences and cases in the construction of a socialist rule of law country and international legal governance should be integrated into classroom teaching to enrich the content and enhance its practicality. Lastly, it is recommended to establish a dedicated department for foreign practice, responsible for establishing cooperation relationships with external practical departments, providing practical opportunities, and offering guidance and support to students in their practical experiences. By implementing the above strategies, we can gradually address the lack of foreign practice teaching in the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance, laying a solid foundation for the cultivation of high-quality talents in this field [15].
6. Conclusion

The strategies proposed in this article for the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance are of great practical significance. By taking Chinese thought of rule of law as guidance and building a layout for the cultivation of talents in foreign legal governance, as well as strengthening the top-level design of the talent cultivation program in the context of the construction of new liberal arts, we can better cultivate talents in foreign legal governance that meet the needs of the new era and promote the development of legal education in China to a higher level. The introduction of this series of strategies will provide strong support for the reform and development of legal education in China.

References